

mass, which he supposed to be the coprolite of a zeuglodont or eetaean.

He also exhibited a quartzite pebble, from a gravel bank in the University ground, West Philadelphia. It has a near resemblance to the stone hammers, with a groove around the middle, found in the ancient copper mines of Lake Superior. Notwithstanding this resemblance it is evidently a water-rolled pebble, the groove resulting from action on a softer stratum of the quartzite.

*Historical Notes on the Arbor Vitæ.*—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN noted in detail the reasons given by various authors for the name *Arbor Vitæ* in connection with *Thuja occidentalis*—reasons unsatisfactory even to the authors who advanced them. He referred to the statement of Ray in his “*Historia Plantarum*” that the tree was first introduced from Canada to France and named *Arbre de Vie*, by King Francis the First. Francis died in 1547. The seeds from which these plants were raised could scarcely have been obtained in any other way than through Jacques Cartier’s expedition, say in 1534, and we may, therefore, conclude that *Thuja occidentalis* was among the first, perhaps the first North American plant to become known in Europe. Parkman, in his “*Pioneers of France*,” graphically describes the sufferings of Cartier’s band during the winter of their encampment near the junction of the River Lairet with the St. Charles. Twenty-five died of scurvy and the rest were sick but two. A friendly Indian told him of an evergreen which they called “Annedda,” a decoction of which was sovereign against the disease. In six days the sufferers had drunk a tree as large as a French oak, *Quercus ilex*?, “the distemper relaxed its hold and health and hope began to revisit the hopeless company,” (p. 195). This Annedda seems to have been identified with the White Spruce, *Abies alba*, and is, as I am informed by Dr. W. R. Gerard, the same as the Mohawk “Onnita,” and the Onondaga “Onnetta.” According to Rafinesque, the spruce beer of the Indians was made of the young tops and young leaves of this tree boiled together with maple sugar, and was one of their famous remedies for scurvy. Rafinesque also says that a decoction of the leaves of the *Arbor Vitæ* was an Indian remedy for scurvy and rheumatism; besides the leaves with bear’s grease being used externally. Rafinesque, however, believes it was the White Spruce which saved the lives of Cartier’s band, and if the “Annedda” of the Indians is really the White Spruce, the evidence through the statement made so soon after Cartier’s expedition that the health-giving plant was the “Annedda,” is strong. But spruce beer could not have been made in the winter season—the leaves only were used. There is no evidence that the White Spruce was known in Europe till towards the end of the 18th century. It is but natural that whatever the tree might have been, it was a veritable tree of life—an *Arbre de Vie*, to the voyagers. They would certainly make every effort to take with them to their native land

so valuable a tree. But we have no reason to believe that they attempted to introduce the White Spruce. There is, as we have seen, good reason to believe that Cartier took the *Thuja occidentalis* to Europe, and it is on record that his royal patron, a few years afterward, distributed the tree as the *Arbor Vitæ*, and, notwithstanding the seemingly positive evidence that the tree was the White Spruce, Mr. Meehan thought the *Thuja* had some ground for disputing the claim. At any rate, whatever may have been the real tree, he could not help suspecting that the name *Arbor Vitæ* had some relation to this touching episode in the history of the Cartier expedition.

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MAY 9.

The President, Dr. Leidy, in the chair.

Twenty-seven persons present.

A paper, entitled "The Muscles of the Limbs of the Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)" by Harrison Allen, M. D., was presented for publication.

The death of Chas. M. Wheatley, a member, was announced.

The death of Mr. Wm. S. Vaux having been announced, Dr. Ruschenberger read the following resumé of his services as an officer and member, and offered the appended resolutions, which were adopted:—

I sincerely regret to announce that Mr. William S. Vaux, the senior Vice-President of the Academy, died at his residence in the city, May 5, 1882, very near the close of the seventy-first year of his age. He was born May 19, 1811.

Mr. Vaux was elected a member of the Academy, March, 1834, and during more than forty-eight years served the Society effectually and generously. He was an Auditor thirty years, from December, 1856; a Curator forty-three years and four months, from December, 1838; a member of the Publication Committee, of which he was treasurer more than forty-one years, from December, 1840, and a Vice-President twenty years and four months, from December, 1860, excepting the year 1875.

His annual re-election to these important offices during all this time, implies that he discharged all his official duties satisfactorily to the Society.

During the construction of the hall, at the corner of Broad and